Examiner's Amendment

1.   An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R.

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the Issue Fee.

2.   Authorization for the examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Andrew T Harry, reg. no. 56,959, on November 21, 2011.

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

        a.   Replace claim 1 to read as of the following,

        In Claim 1,

        1. (Currently Amendment) A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a
plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus
comprising:
        storing means for storing a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available tunes and tune data
corresponding to each of the available tunes, the tune data including a title, an artist name and an
updating date;
        receiving means:
                for receiving participation requests transmitted from any of the plurality of
        information processing apparatuses to include a corresponding one of the plurality of
        information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms,

for receiving tune requests transmitted from one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the tune request including a selection from the list of available tunes, and

for receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

acquiring means for acquiring the tune requested by the tune requests from the one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses;

transmitting means for transmitting to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

the list of available tunes stored in said storing means;

the tune acquired by said acquiring means, wherein the tune acquired by the acquiring means is transmitted to all of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses without receiving a request for the tune from any of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

said text messages received by said receiving means; and

instructions to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~instructions~~ commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to simultaneously display in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available tunes, [[the]] a name of the tune being shared by all of the information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the transmitting means, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

b.   Replace claim 4 to read as of the following,

In Claim 4,

4. (Currently Amended) A service providing method for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing method comprising:

a storage step of storing a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available tunes and tune data corresponding to each of the available tunes, the tune data including a title, an artist name and an updating date;

a first reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a participation request to include one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms;

a second reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a tune request transmitted from one of the information processing apparatuses belonging to said one of the of the plurality of chat rooms, the tune request including a selection from the list of available tunes;

a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

an acquisition step of acquiring in the service providing apparatus the tune requested by the tune request from the one of the information processing apparatuses;

a first communication step of transmitting from the service providing apparatus to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms the list of available tunes;

a second communication step of transmitting from the service providing apparatus the tune acquired by the acquisition step to all of the ~~other~~ information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms without receiving a request for the tune from any of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

a transmission step of transmitting to each of the information processing apparatuses in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the text messages, and

instructions to each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms ~~instructions~~ commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to simultaneously display in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available tunes, [[the]] a name of the tune being shared by all of the information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the service providing apparatus, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

c.   Replace claim 5 to read as of the following,

In Claim 5,

5. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium on which a computer-readable program for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a shared server on a network is stored, said computer-readable program comprising:

a storage step of storing in the shared server a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available tunes and tune data corresponding to each of the available tunes, the tune data including a title, an artist name and an updating date;

a first reception step of receiving in the shared server a participation request transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to include said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms;

a second reception step of receiving a tune request transmitted from one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the tune request including a selection from the list of available tunes;

a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

an acquisition step of acquiring the tune requested by the tune request received from the one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a first communication step of transmitting from the shared server to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms the list of available tunes;

a second communication step of transmitting the tune acquired by the acquisition step to all of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms without receiving a request for the tune from any of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

a transmission step of transmitting to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms,

the text messages, and

instructions commanding each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms to simultaneously display in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available tunes, [[the]] a name of the tune being shared by all of the information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmission from the shared server, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

d.   Replace claim 12 to read as of the following,

In Claim 12,

12. (Currently Amended) A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses, the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available tunes and tune data corresponding to each of the available tunes, the tune data including a title, an artist name and an updating date;

a network interface:

configured to receive participation requests to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of chat rooms, the participation requests transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses,

configured to receive tune requests transmitted from one of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the tune requests including a selection from the list of available tunes; and

configured to receive text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

the network interface configured to acquire the tune requested by the tune requests received from the one of the information processing apparatuses;

the network interface configured to transmit the acquired tune to all of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses without receiving a request for the tune from any of the ~~other~~ plurality of information processing apparatuses, and the text messages to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

the network interface configured to transmit to each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

the list of available tunes;

a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

the received text messages; and

instructions commanding each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms to simultaneously display in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available tunes, [[the]] a name of the tune being shared by all of the information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmission from the shared server, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

e.   Replace claim 19 to read as of the following,

In Claim 19,

        19. (Currently Amended) The service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the instructions to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses command said one
of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to display the list of available tunes in a
first display area of the one window, display the name of the tune being shared by all of <u>the</u>
information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the transmitting
means in a second display area of the one window, and display the identification information
corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one
of the plurality of chat rooms in a third area of the one window.

                                      Reason for Allowance

        4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the
prior art of records teach or suggest in combination comprising: storing means for storing a
plurality of chat rooms, a list of available tunes and tune data corresponding to each of the
available tunes, the tune data including a title, an artist name and an updating date; receiving
means: for receiving participation requests transmitted from any of the plurality of information
processing apparatuses to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing
apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms, for receiving tune requests transmitted from
one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of
the plurality of chat rooms, the tune request including a selection from the list of available tunes,
and for receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing
apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; acquiring means for
acquiring the tune requested by the tune requests from the one of the plurality of information
processing apparatuses; transmitting means for transmitting to all of the plurality of information
processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms: the list
of available tunes stored in said storing means; the tune acquired by said acquiring means,
wherein the tune acquired by the acquiring means is transmitted to all of the plurality of
information processing apparatuses without receiving a request for the tune from any of the
plurality of information processing apparatuses; a list of all of the information processing
apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of
the plurality of chat rooms; said text messages received by said receiving means; and instructions
to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service
providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms commanding said
one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to simultaneously display in one

window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available tunes, a name of the tune being shared by all of the information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the transmitting means, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms as recited in claim 1. Claims 4-5 and 12 also claimed similar limitations.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip C Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-3967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM TO 5:30 PM Monday to Thursday and every other Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Krista Zele can be reached on (571) 272-7288. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip C Lee/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453